



Little Tokyo Community Council

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The Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC) took its initial position on disposition of the Parker Center in 2013 as outlined in the 5 bullet points below. Then, on Oct. 25, 2016, LTCC took this position a step further unanimously voting to support the now-designated option B3. This position orders the complete demolition of the former Parker Center building thus allowing for the maximum number of community concerns listed below to be implemented.

The original position taken by the LTCC in 2013 is as follows:

"The entire block which today holds the Parker Center was taken from Little Tokyo in the 1960s destroying many family-owned and community-serving businesses, 700-1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities including the early site of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

The City plans to use upper floors of the building that will take the place of the current Parker Center for City offices. The bottom floor could accommodate community-enhancing retail businesses and other historical representations that tell the history of the block as part of Little Tokyo's 130+ year history.

The specific concerns of the LTCC include:

- Retail planned for the ground floor should reflect businesses that complement and create a natural connection with Little Tokyo, especially to Union Center for the Arts. This design should drive people to businesses on Historic First Street and complement future development on First Street North that will now reflect Little Tokyo's vision for a Sustainable Little Tokyo
- The design will not "turn its back" on Little Tokyo but, instead, flow into it;
- Public art should be funded that reflects the historic connection of the block to Little Tokyo.
- Additional parking must be included to accommodate City employees to be housed in the new facility. Current parking, especially in the Aiso Street lot, was designed to serve local small businesses. Additional parking for the general public should also be included, given the rapid decrease in available public parking lots around the Little Tokyo and Civic Center area.
- There will be ongoing communication and action in the course of planning and design of the new building in concert with the Little Tokyo community's own vision for the development of the First Street North block and other Sustainable Little Tokyo plans."

Sincerely,

Chris Komai, Chair, Little Tokyo Community Council

The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which has 90+member organizations whose mission is to ensure that Little Tokyo would be a viable center for the Japanese American community and the Los Angeles Downtown community. The Council shall work to create a vision of what Little Tokyo should be in the future and serve as an advocate on behalf of the Little Tokyo community.